

grow

Rooted and built up in Christ



Introduction

Matthew 28:18-20, Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Colossians 1:9-12, “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

Colossians 1:28, “He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.”

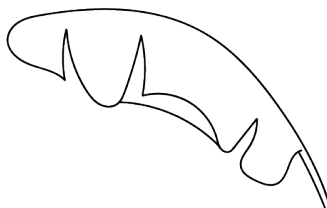
Colossians 2:6-7, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

At the very heart of the Christian faith is something called “discipleship”. It is the intentional act of helping new believers become mature in their faith, to obey everything Jesus commanded us, and teaching them to do the same for others. A Christian was never meant to grow in their knowledge of Jesus so that they can keep it to themselves. We must teach what we know, even if it is just a small amount in the beginning!

This small book is meant to help you grow in your walk with Jesus, to give you a good foundation to continue learning, and to help you be rooted and built up in Christ. Even as you learn, teach others what you discover. Keep the Bible as your foundation and guide. Never stop searching the scriptures and growing in wisdom and spiritual understanding.

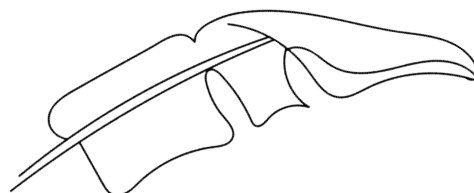
Who can you teach? Who has God put into your life that you can start to disciple?

God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ!



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What We Believe

God

There is but one God, infinite in power, wisdom, justice, goodness, and love, the Creator of the universe, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of whom possess all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of his personality.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ, convict men and women of their sins, and to impart new life to all who place their faith in Christ. He indwells believers from the moment of spiritual birth, seals them until the day of redemption, and empowers them to live a life pleasing to God.

Jesus Christ

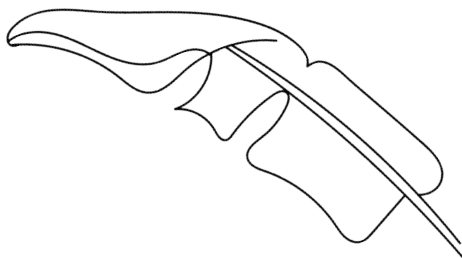
God the Father, by his own choice and out of love for sinful men and women, sent Jesus Christ into the world to reconcile sinners to himself. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He is God in the flesh, both true God and true man. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily suffered and died as our substitute to pay the penalty for our sins, thus satisfying God's justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which he lived and died. He bodily ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where he, the only mediator between God and man, makes intercession for his own. He will return to earth personally, visibly, and bodily to judge all humanity and establish his kingdom.

The Bible

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in faith and life in every age.

The Church

All true believers make up the church worldwide and should assemble together in local churches for worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching. This helps us become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.



Salvation

Men and women are freed from the penalty of their sins not as a result, in whole or in part, of their own works, goodness or religious ceremony, but by the underserved favor of God alone. God declares righteous all who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation.

Assurance

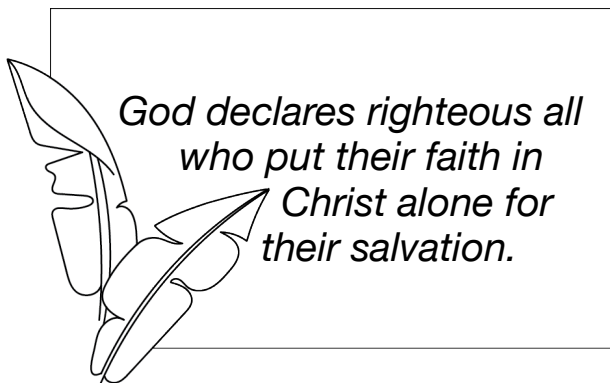
All who are born again of the Spirit can be fully assured of eternal life from the very moment in which they put their faith in Christ, following him always as Lord and Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but upon the fact of God's election, upon Christ's complete payment for sins, and upon the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who is the deposit guaranteeing their inheritance.

Humanity

God created humanity in his own image, and humanity, as originally created, was innocent before God. But humanity chose to sin by disobeying God, and therefore was alienated from the Creator and came under divine condemnation. Thus, all human beings are born with a corrupted nature and without spiritual life, and are totally incapable of pleasing God in themselves.

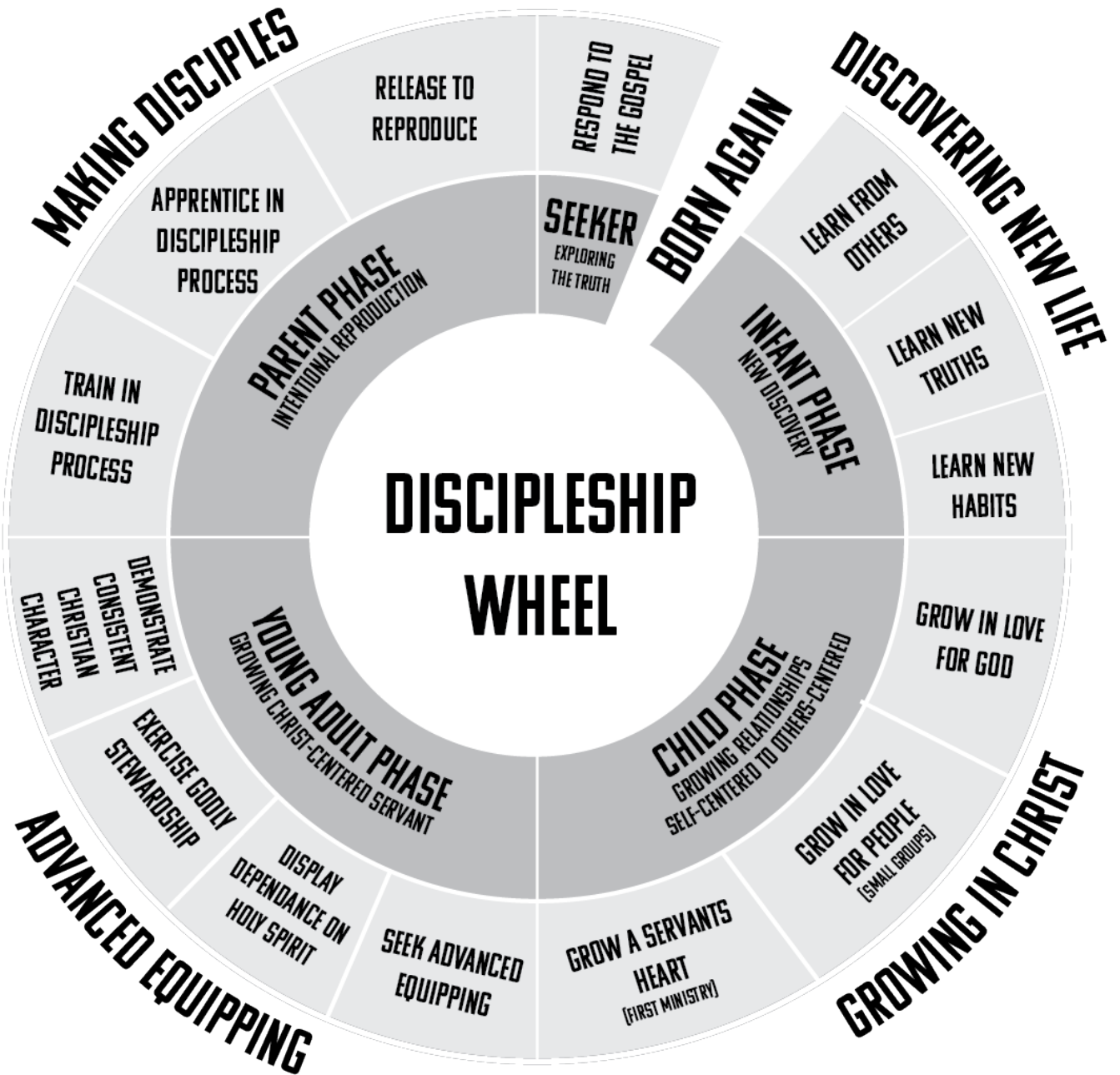
Baptism and the Lord's Supper

The Lord Jesus Christ has instructed those who believe in him to be baptized in water as a symbol of their new birth in Christ. Baptism is only for those who personally believe in Christ. Our practice is to baptize by immersion. The Lord also instituted the Lord's Supper as a remembrance of His suffering, death, and resurrection. However, neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper have any merit in helping a person obtain eternal life.



The Resurrection of the Dead

At physical death, the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing. At physical death the unbeliever enters immediately in eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting suffering, judgment, and condemnation.



Lesson 1: First Steps – Faith

In 2001, I was in secondary school preparing for the Sudanese exams in order to attend university. But I had no money to pay for the registration fees. My family was worried because they could not help me pay either. So, I decided to pray, asking God's help to provide for my school fees. I prayed that night. The following day, in the afternoon, God used a pastor I had not spoken to. He gave me more than what I was praying for. The following day I went to school and paid my school fees.

Read together: Hebrews 11

What is faith?

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

The works of faith:

1. Faith enables us to see things that others cannot see: Hebrews 11:23-26
2. Faith enables us to walk closely with God: Genesis 5:22-24
3. Faith enables us to be protected from danger: Genesis 6:11-22, Psalm 91
4. Faith enables us to obey God: Jeremiah 31:31-34
5. Faith enables us to receive God's promises: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
6. Faith enables us to overcome fear: 1 John 4:18
7. Faith enables us to refuse the pleasure of world: Colossians 3:1-15
8. Faith enables us to endure difficulties: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 1 Peter 4:12-19

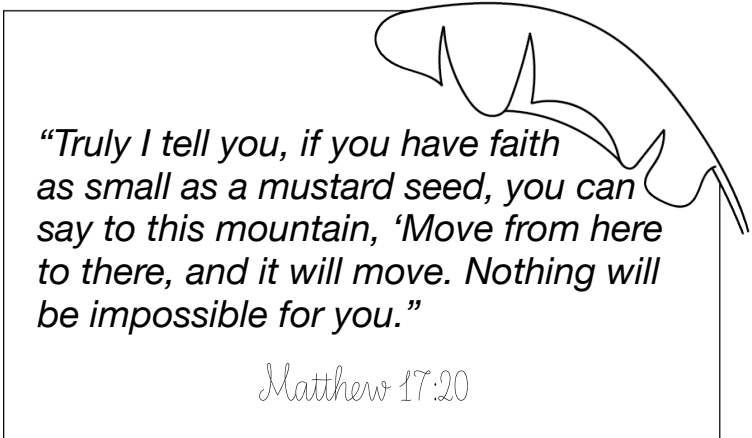
Questions:

- When was a time that you exercised faith?
- What happens when we see God answer us or help us in our time of need?
- Where do you struggle to trust God?

Scripture for further study about faith:

Matthew 17:20
Ephesians 2:8-9
2 Corinthians 5:6-7
James 1:3

Pray with one another.



“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there, and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’”

Matthew 17:20

Lesson 2: First Steps – Repentance

Repentance is one of the crucial topics in Christian life because it involves the process of turning away from doing wrong and choosing to do what is right. It is the process of changing your mind and heart to obey God. In the book of Ezekiel 18:30-32 it says, “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”

One day when I was a child I broke something in our toilet. I knew if I kept silent some children will be punished at home because of me. I decided to confess to my parents telling them the truth; that I am the one who broke the toilet. So, I confessed and repented of my sin in front of my parents. As Christians, we repent not only when surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord, but we repent every day when we sin.

Read together: Luke 24:45-47

What is repentance?

Repentance is sorrow for sin that you have committed and the action of turning away from sin to God.

What will happen when we repent?

2 Chronicles 7:14

Proverbs 28:13

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

Questions:

- When was a time that you needed to repent?
- How does repentance feel?
- Do we repent from our sins only once? What do we see in scripture?

As Christians, we repent not only when surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord, but we repent every day when we sin.



Scripture for further study about repentance:

Ezekiel 18:32

James 4:8

Acts 2:38

Revelation 3:19

Pray with one another.

Lesson 3: First Steps – Baptism

I grew up in Christian family where my father and mother were Catholic. So, I was baptized in the Catholic church. I grew up as a Christian by name doing what pleases me but when I heard about Christ from a servant of God, I knew that my life was not being lived according to God's will. I decided to submit to Christ as my personal savior. After that, I decided to be baptized again in the Pentecostal church in 2007, in Juba.

In the beginning I was afraid of my family who are all Catholics. I was afraid that they would criticize and condemn me. But God gave me the strength to overcome this fear and helped me to be strong in my decision to be baptized again. He helped me to be baptized without fearing anybody, particularly, my family members and others who knew I had been a Catholic.

Read together: Romans 6:1-7

What is baptism?

Baptism is a public declaration of being identified with Jesus Christ and his message of salvation to those who believe. The word "baptism" comes from the Greek verb "*baptizo*" which means to dip or immerse. Being Baptized is something that a person chooses for themselves to follow in obedience to Christ.

What is the importance of baptism?

It is a command given to us by Jesus. Matthew 28:18-20

It is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus. Matthew 10:33

It symbolizes:

- We died with Christ
- We were buried with Christ
- We are raised to live a new life in him

Questions:

- Have you been baptized? If not, meet with your church leaders to schedule a time to be baptized.
- When and how were you baptized?
- Do you have any fears about being baptized publicly?

Scripture for further study about baptism:

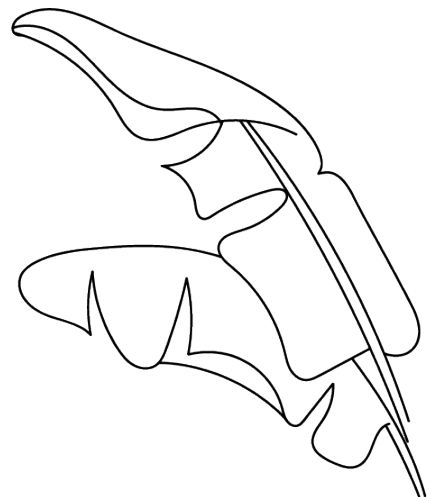
Mark 1:5

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:12-13

Galatians 3:22-25

Pray with one another.



Lesson 4: How to Pray

This is one of the most important topics for any believer to know and understand. What is comes to your mine when you heard the word prayer?

Read together: Luke 11:1-13

What does this passage tell us about prayer?
What does it say about the character of God?
How does it help you in your own prayer life?

What is prayer?

One of the simplest definitions is, “prayer is talking to God.” We speak to God as if we are children addressing our heavenly Father.

Some of our traditional religions teach that prayer forces a god to obey. If he fails to answer the prayer of those who worship him, the god is shamed. Some Christians seem to have the same ideas about our God. They think prayer is an angel who can force God to do what they ask. But prayer in the name of Jesus is totally different from what they think. (John 14:13-14)

In the Muslim tradition, we believe that to come before God we need a lot of preparations. In the past, some people use to come with animals like sheep, hens or doves. In addition to that, you also had to clean your body and your clothes. As believers who accepted Christ, you are no longer in need of all these preparations. (Hebrews 4:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

We do not have to pray at a specific time. You can pray at any time. Those who came from a Muslim background, like me, may think prayer time in the church is more effective than home prayer. They may also think that God is limited to the location of prayer. When you check the shoes of Muslims outside the mosque you may find sugar and other stuffs which they think are not holy. As Christians, God dwells within us. His Spirit never leaves us. (Psalms 118:6, 2 Timothy 1:14)

So, the only thing that separates man from God is sin. When he sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins he gave us the opportunity to come into his presence. There are no more barriers between us and God if we believe in Jesus.

Why should we pray?

Here are several reasons we should pray:

- The main reason to pray is because God tells us to do so. (Luke 18:1)
- He wants us to bring all our worries and cares to him. (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- God created us to have fellowship with him. (John 14:23, 1 John 1:3)
- Prayer brings us closer to him.
- We know that prayer changes us.



How should we pray?

Prayer is for every believer, therefore, every believer should learn how to pray. In Luke 11 the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. He taught them a model prayer that is called “The Lord’s Prayer.” He shows us the spirit of true prayer:

We pray in humble submission to the Father. (Luke 11:2)

We pray from a repentant heart and from a heart that forgives others. (Luke 11:4)

We pray in the Spirit who intercedes for us. (Ephesians 6:18)

We do not have to rely on our own power when we pray. (Romans 8:26-27)

Does God always answer us when we pray?

Yes, God does always answer us when we pray. He may say, “no”, or even “not right now”. Sometimes we are asking for things that are not in his will. Or maybe we have sin in our lives that cause us not to hear from him. (James 4:2, James 5:16)

Choose to live righteously before God so that you may know his will. (Romans 12:1-2)

Scripture for further study about how to pray:

Matthew 6:7

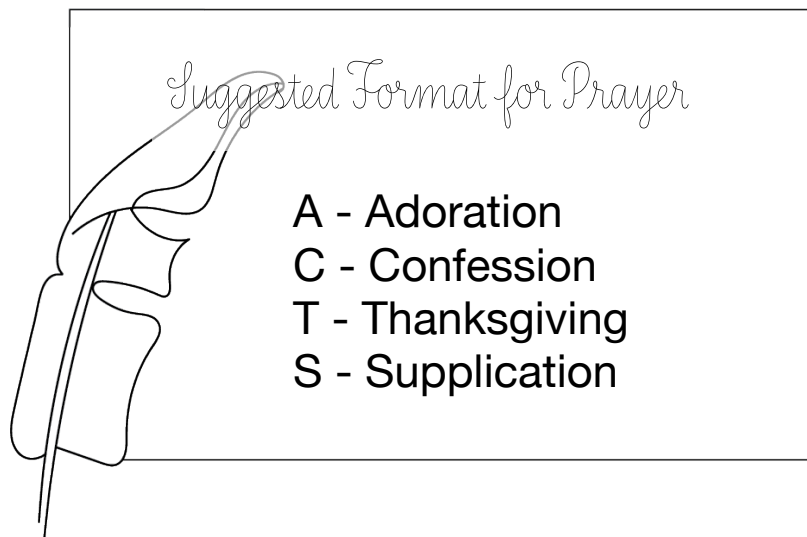
John 15:7

Philippians 4:6-7

James 5:16

1 John 5:14-15

Pray with one another.



Lesson 5: Personal Testimony

My name is Adel Edris and I am from Darfur, Sudan. All the people who live there are Muslim and I grew up in a committed Muslim family. My father was an Imam of the Mosque. The political party who ruled the country at the time tried to apply Sharia Law and that caused conflict. It resulted in rape and genocide.

While this was happening, I focused on the Koran as a Muslim and found a lot of contradictions. Because of this I decided to leave the Muslim faith. In my last prayer at night I said this, "God, I don't know what is right and wrong, but I know you created me and you exist. It is your choice to take me heaven or hell. I am no longer going to pray until you show yourself to me."

I had no peace in my life at that time. I became a drunkard, womanizer and was addicted to shisha in order to get peace. Until one day in a night club while taking alcohol, a thought came to my heart that I wanted to know Jesus. I started the journey asking about him until someone directed me to pastor named Munir. He gave me an Arabic Bible and told me to read it. After a week, they invited me for a conference that focused on the differences between Islam and Christianity. That is the time I felt peace in my life. I finally found Jesus.

The Holy Spirit in me changed my character and God gave me people who did discipleship training with me. My close, unbelieving friends, began to ask why I was different. I shared with them that my source of peace is Jesus. Many of them came to Christ and we started a house church.

Read together: Acts 9:1-20

Any testimony has three stages:

1. The first stage is your life before you met the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:1-2)
2. Second stage is how you met Jesus. (Acts 1:3-18)
3. The third stage is your life after you met Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:19-20)

Saul was a person that used to persecute the believers, those who believed in Jesus Christ. He mistreated, arrested and sought to have them killed. Saul reached to the extent of asking the high priest to give him permission to go and arrest the believers who fled.

On his way to Damascus with his followers, suddenly a light appeared to them and there was a voice asking them "Why do you persecute me?" So, he asked, "Who are you Lord?" The voice replied to him, "I am Jesus Christ, the one you are persecuting." Then he asked again, "What do you want me to do?" Because the light made him totally blind, Jesus instructed him to go and see what will happen.

When he arrived at Damascus, Ananias met him and opened his eyes, then he began to share with other believers what God did in his life.

Lesson 6: Assurance of Salvation

Before I fully understood God's incredible grace to us in salvation, I feared that I could lose my salvation. Since Jesus offers us the gift of eternal life through him, I reasoned that maybe I could make a mistake and lose that gift somehow. The Bible is clear to us that once we are saved, the Holy Spirit works to make us more and more like Jesus. Our desire for the world falls away and we want to walk with him. Salvation would not be salvation if we could somehow fall from God's grace.

Salvation is God's gift to all people in the world. God sent his only son Jesus Christ to die on the cross and save humanity once and for all. Jesus' sacrifice was only needed one time in order to satisfy God's wrath against sin. Unfortunately, many people do not understand this very beautiful gift. As a result, they lose the opportunity to experience the joy and freedom that God has prepared for them in Christ.

Read together: Hebrews 10:10-12, Romans 10:9-13

Some of what the Bible says about Salvation:

1. God created you to be the object of his eternal love. Jeremiah 31:3
2. God has adopted us as sons. Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8:14-17
3. The purpose of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Psalm 145:1-3
4. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Romans 8:38-39

Test of faith in 1 John:

1. Are you walking in the light? 1 John 1:5-7
2. Are you confessing your sin? 1 John 1:8-10
3. Are you obeying Jesus' commands? 1 John 2:3-4
4. Do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? 1 John 2:9-11
5. Do you hate the things of the world? 1 John 2:15-17
6. Are you pursuing righteousness in your life? 1 John 3:10
7. Do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit being active in your life?
1 John 4:13

Questions:

- How do you know you are truly saved?
- What desires in your life have changed since surrendering your life to Jesus?
- Is there something in your life that you need to change in order to grow closer to Christ?



Scripture for further study about Assurance of Salvation:

John 3:36

John 10:28

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8

Titus 3:3-7

Pray with one another.

*Salvation is God's gift to
all people in the world.
God sent his only son
Jesus Christ to die on the
cross and save humanity
once and for all.*



Lesson 7: God's Redemptive Plan in the Old Testament

Read together: Isaiah 53, 2 Corinthians 5:21

What is redemption?

In Christian theology, redemption, refers to the deliverance of Christians from sin. Redemption is freedom received through a price being paid. God has had a plan for redemption since the beginning of time. We see His redemptive plan in creation (Genesis 1-2), in His response to the Fall (Genesis 3), and in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Redemption in the Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-2:25

In the garden of Eden, we see Adam and Eve living in God's place, the garden. Under his rule, they submit to his word. And to be under God's rule is to always enjoy his blessing.

Genesis 3

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by trying to be like God. But their disobedience led to a disaster. They lost their fellowship with God. They were no longer in God's place; God banished them from the garden. And they were no longer under God's rule. So, they do not enjoy his blessing. Instead, they faced his curse and were put under his judgment. But God, in his great love, is determined to restore his perfect kingdom.

Genesis 12:1-3, Galatians 3:6-14

God later calls Abraham and makes some unconditional promises to him; through Abraham's descendants he will re-establish his kingdom. They will be his people living in his land, and they will enjoy his blessing. Through him all peoples on earth would be blessed. They would all be blessed through the promise of Jesus Christ.



2 Samuel 7:12-16, Hebrews 10:4

The Bible records how God's promises to Abraham are incompletely fulfilled in the history of Israel. They were God's people in God's place, the land of Canaan, under God's rule and therefore enjoying his blessing. But the promises to Abraham had still not been completely fulfilled. The problem was sin, the continual disobedience of the people of Israel. There was a sacrificial system in place to cover the sins of the people, but it never could remove the sins of man. Eventually, Israel fell apart.

The prophets pointed forward to a time when God would act in authority through his King, the Messiah, to fulfill all his promises. That is where the Old Testament ends: waiting for God's King, the Messiah, to appear and establish his new kingdom.

Questions:

- What does this story of redemption say about God's character?
- What does this story of redemption mean for your life or the life of your family?
- What should you do in response to this gift of redemption?

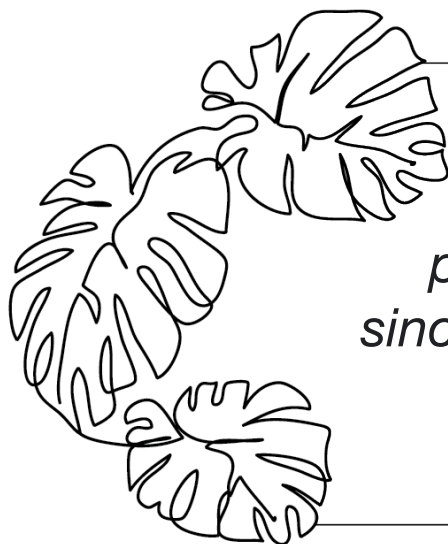
Scripture for further study on redemption in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 44:22

Psalm 111:9

Lamentations 3:57-58

Pray with one another.



*God has had a
plan for redemption
since the beginning of
time.*

Lesson 8: God's Redemptive Plan in the New Testament

Read together: John 3:16-21

Redemption in the New Testament

Luke 1-2

Four hundred years passed between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Jesus was born, grew up, and began his public ministry at the age of 30. God's Messiah had come to establish a new kingdom. Jesus proved that he was God's son through his life, teaching, and miracles. He was truly God in human form.

John 3:16-21

He had the power to bring us back into a relationship with God by dying on a cross. It was by his death that Jesus answered the problem of sin and made it possible for people to come back into a right relationship with his Father.

Luke 24:45-48, Galatians 3:26-29

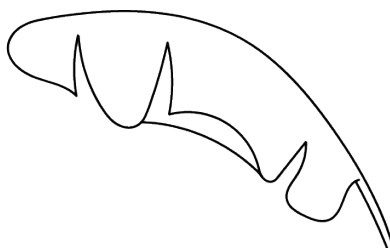
After Jesus' death he was raised back to life. This meant that Jesus fulfilled what he came to do on the cross and that God accepted his sacrifice. He told his disciples that those who trust in him, his death, burial and resurrection, can look forward to eternal life with him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Revelation 7:9, 21:1-6

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and many others over a period of 40 days. Jesus made it clear that there would be a delay before he returned to finalize his kingdom. The delay is to give a chance to more people to hear about the good news of Christ and be rescued from judgement. We live during this time which the Bible calls "the last days". The book of Revelation describes a perfect kingdom: God's people, Christians from all nations, tongues, and tribes, in God's place, the new creation, under God's rule and therefore enjoying his blessing. There will be no end to this beautiful place of peace and rest in Jesus.

Acts 2, John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 3:16

After he ascended to heaven, Jesus sent God the Holy Spirit to live inside believers and to help them to follow him. The Day of Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and helped them establish the church.



Questions:

- Why do you think it is important that Jesus appeared to his disciples after he raised from the dead?
- How has the Holy Spirit helped you in following Jesus?
- Have you joined a church? Why or why not?
- What is the importance of the church in Acts 2?

Scripture for further study on redemption in the New Testament:

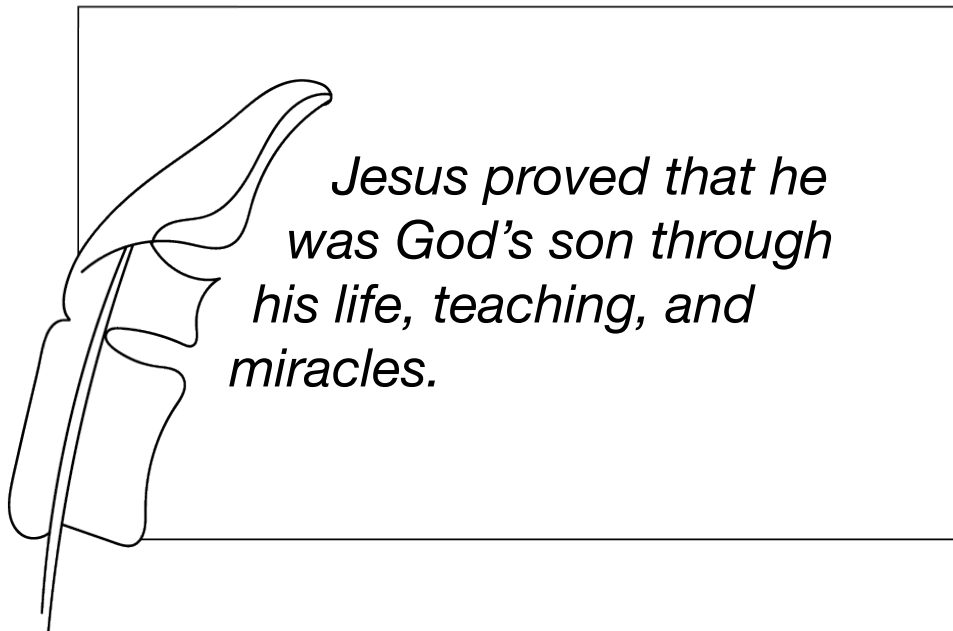
Luke 24:25-27

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 1:7

2 Peter 3:9

Pray with one another.



Lesson 9: How to Read the Bible

When I was a child my parents encouraged me to read my bible everyday. This is a good habit to form, but I was not sure exactly where to start or how I should read the Bible. My heart was in the right place, but I would pray, ask God a question, and then let the Bible fall open. Whatever pages that opened at random I would pick a place and begin reading. This is how I thought God would communicate to me! Can you imagine reading any other book this way? A textbook on the history of Africa? A novel? You wouldn't ever start anywhere but at the beginning. This is how we should treat our bibles.

The Bible is made up of 66 different books that were all written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Since they are books, we need to start at the beginning and work our way through the entire book, chapter by chapter. We need to keep in mind that we don't take certain scripture verses and try to remove them from the context of the surrounding chapter or even book of the Bible. You wouldn't step into an ongoing conversation and think you know exactly what is going on would you? In the same way, we must read scripture in context.

Questions to ask as you read the Bible:

- Who wrote the passage?
- Who were they writing to?
- Why?
- What were the problems at that time?
- What was the historical context?
- What was the culture context?
- What verses come first and follow the passage?
- What is the entire passage about?
- Is it referencing a different part of Scripture?



Good bible study questions to ask as you read:

S Is there any **SIN** to avoid?

P Is there any **PROMISE** to claim?

E Is there any good **EXAMPLE** to follow or bad **EXAMPLE** to avoid?

C Is there any **COMMAND** to obey?

K Is there any **KNOWLEDGE** to remember? (about God or how He works)

A What is the **APPLICATION** for my life?

Read together: 1 John 1

Use the lines below to answer the questions from 1 John 1:

S Is there any **SIN** to avoid?

P Is there any **PROMISE** to claim?

E Is there any good **EXAMPLE** to follow or bad **EXAMPLE** to avoid?

C Is there any **COMMAND** to obey?

K Is there any **KNOWLEDGE** to remember?

A What is the **APPLICATION** for my life?

Scripture for further study about how to read the Bible:

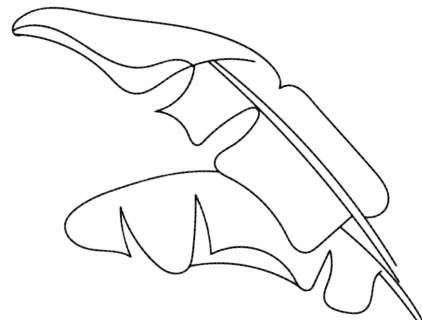
2 Timothy 3:16

Proverbs 30:5

Psalms 119:105

John 14:23-24

Pray with one another.



Lesson 10: Obedience vs Knowledge

Read together: Luke 6:46-49 or Matthew 7:24-27

Throughout the Bible, God calls on human beings to walk in obedience to him. As Creator and Lord over everything, he expects that we will listen to his commands and follow them. It is through obedience to God that we are identified as people of God in both the Old and New Testament. It is a sign that we love Him, trust his wisdom, and his means and plans for us.

Our obedience unlocks the doors of blessing from above as promised to us in scripture. Disobedience is a sign of rebellion to God and mistrust of his wisdom and his means and plans for our lives. He desires to achieve his glory in us and that is for our good. In fact, every sin can be labelled as an act of disobedience to God.

As we seek to walk in obedience to God daily, the Bible also commands us to seek out knowledge which has many benefits. In fact, knowledge when applied well, facilitates our obedience to God. It is no wonder we are commanded to love God with all our mind. As we learn more about God's character, works, plans and purposes for us (and all creation) as laid out in scripture, we come to love Him more, revere Him more and walk in obedience to Him. However, the Bible also warns us about how we seek knowledge, why we seek it and how we view ourselves as a result of the knowledge acquired. We should be careful not to be overtaken by pride and look down on others as a result of the knowledge we have acquired. Instead, knowledge should be exercised in love to build up and serve others.

Many believers have chosen obedience and shunned knowledge and study in regards to religious matters, becoming only emotional believers. While others have pursued the path of seeking head knowledge and become only intellectual believers. However, a balanced study of scripture calls on us to harmonize the two. God calls on us to obey him, while in the same breath calling on us to grow in our knowledge of him. As we learn, our obedience and service must also grow.

God calls on us to obey him, while in the same breath calling on us to grow in our knowledge of him.



Questions:

- What does Jesus expect of people that call Him Lord? John 15:10-14
- Why do you think Jesus compares obedient people to the Wise Builder?
- Why do you think Jesus compares disobedient people to the Foolish Builder?
- What do you think the storms represent in real life?
- What are some sandy foundations that people build on today?
- How does this passage apply to your life?

Scriptures for further study on obedience vs knowledge:

Genesis 22:17-18

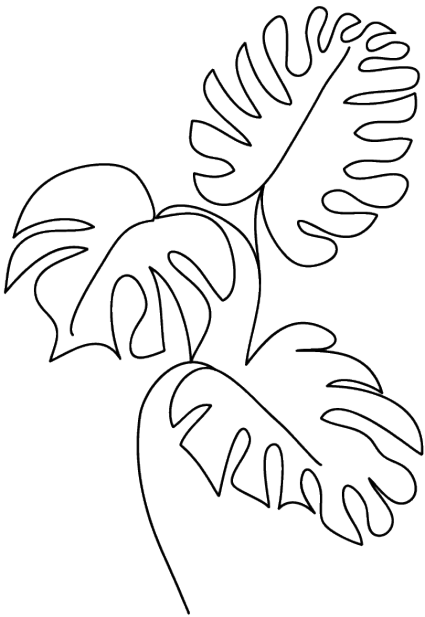
Exodus 19:5

Joshua 1:7-8

1 Corinthians 8:1

James 1:22-25

Pray with one another.



Lesson 11: Making Disciples

Read together: Matthew 28:18-20

As Christians and disciples of Christ we are called to disciple others. There are many ways to go about discipling, but there are also some principles that should never be left out of the disciple making process.

Making disciples should be:

1. Rooted in scripture.

God gave us the Bible as a way to communicate with us as believers and we should fully believe in that. The scriptures have amazing examples of believers who disciplined others. Peter and Paul stand out, but Jesus is our main model.

We as believers want to be rooted in God and to know how to effectively help others to know him better. We are commanded to assist others to dig deep and be mature in their walk with God. (Colossians 1:28-29)

2. Centered in prayer.

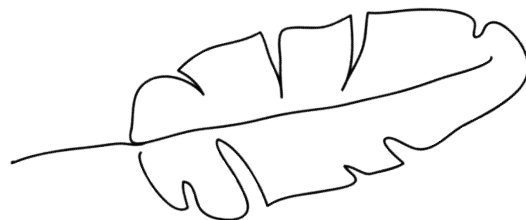
We as Christians also communicate with God through prayer. Prayer is such a big part of the Christian life. It can not be left out of the disciple making process. As we grow in the spiritual discipline of prayer, we become better equipped to help grow others in Christ. God uses prayer in the powerful way.

3. Teaching and modeling life application.

Our lifestyle as Christians needs to be Christ-like. One of the key components to discipling others is practicing what you preach. You will not be able to convince anyone else that Christians should live as Jesus did if you are not living like Christ. Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

4. Hard work.

Discipleship takes time and energy and it is not an easy process. It takes time for us to grow in a deeper relationship with Christ and time to make connections with other people. When we confront sin in others, or they help hold us accountable to our own sin, it can be hard. Even though it is a difficult process, it is worth the effort.



While we disciple others we should ask them some questions and also give them a chance to ask as well. Especially when we share the scripture.

Questions:

- Even though you may be new in your walk with Christ you are also commanded to make disciples. Who can you start discipling?
- What do you need to know to start making disciples?
- What has God been speaking to you recently through your personal bible study times?

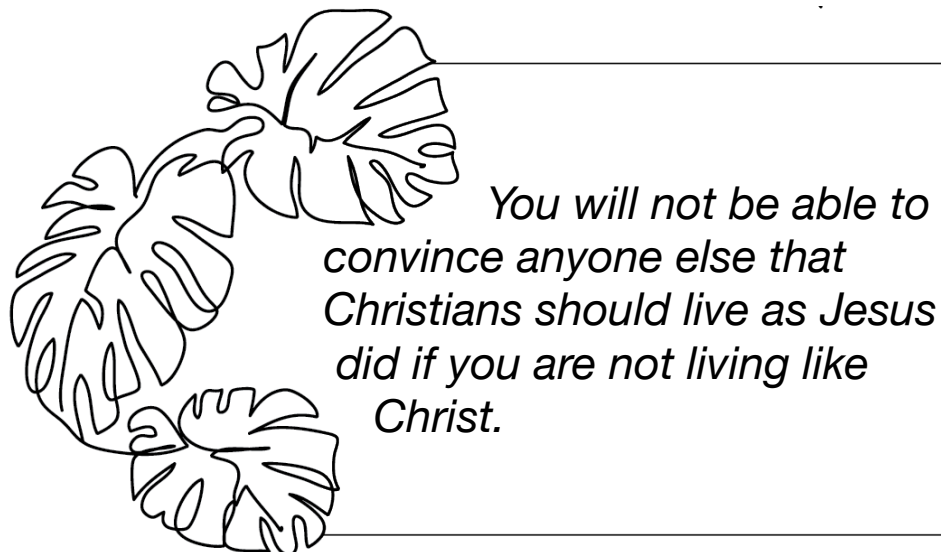
Scripture for further study on making disciples:

John 13:15

1 Timothy 4:11-16

2 Timothy 2:2

Pray with one another.



Lesson 12: Dealing with Conflict

I grew up in a community where conflict, even personal ones, were resolved either through violence or the blame game. As a young boy and a church goer I observed the same methods of resolving conflict in the community being employed in the places of worship. Quite often, failure to deal with conflict will result in more problems, either in the community or the church.

Read together: Matthew 18:15-20

What is the biblical means of resolving conflicts?

➤ Meet the person privately. Matthew 18:15

The first step in resolving conflict is for the offended person to prayerfully meet the sinning brother/sister in private to tell him his fault. In this first step, the Bible does not say to send a friend to meet the person. It does not even say to use a phone call, email, Facebook message or WhatsApp to speak to him, but rather the scripture here emphasizes meeting the sinning brother in person and in secret.

What is the purpose or the goal of meeting a person who has wronged you?

➤ The purpose is reconciliation. Luke 17:3, Galatians 6:1

The scripture clearly points out that the reason for the meeting is not to have revenge, to accuse or even to condemn the person, but rather to restore the person. The desire is to see genuine repentance and reconciliation.

In case there is no evidence of repentance, then the next step has to be followed:

➤ Meet the person with one or two more people. Matthew 18:16

Conflict may require more time or even involvement of more people to have it resolved and our Lord Jesus is very much aware of it. That is why he encourages us to take one or two more people with us to try to resolve the issue. Jesus reminds us in this scripture that the testimony of two or more people is more important compared to evidence provided by one person.

Just like an African proverb, if you want to walk very fast walk alone, but if you want to go far, move as a team. A good team plays an important role in encouraging each other. If we join together to pray over the issue, God promises not only to grant their request, but also to be with them as they gather in his name to resolve the conflict. Corporate prayer and having one mind is an important part in conflict resolution.

Who is to be involved in your team?

➤ The team should consist of Godly people who are wise and demonstrate maturity in their walk with the LORD. 1 Timothy 5:19, Hebrews 10:28, John 8:17

The team may include a pastor, church elder or close friends you know well and are able to keep the matter private.

When this step is followed and there is no evidence of repentance yet, then the third step is necessary:

➤ Make it public by involving the Church. Matthew 18:17

This third step in conflict resolution does not mean going around announcing the issue in the community or even on social media. It rather means making it known to the congregation. This last step is only employed when all other efforts to restore the person fail. The purpose is still not to accuse, condemn or even blame the person, but rather to provide more opportunity for repentance. However, when there is no evidence of repentance, especially throughout all these biblical steps, the person should then be considered as an unbeliever, or “tax collector.”

During Jesus’ days, tax collectors were viewed as ungodly people who can never get saved. Though it was not a very true way of thinking, since Jesus saved tax collectors and even recruited some like Mathew to His ministry, the Idea here is to regard the unrepentant brother as an unbeliever who still needs to be evangelized or to com to know the Lord Jesus.

Unrepentant people should not be included in our church membership unless there is evidence of salvation. They could be allowed to fellowship with us if they are not disruptive in the church. But if they are very disruptive during church services then they should be stopped from gathering with us in the hope that they will come to a place of repentance and be restored eventually.

To ensure a healthy church family, it is always important to resolve conflicts as they arise in a biblical way.

Questions:

- What have you learned from this lesson?
- Have you ever had to confront someone? Would you have done anything different?
- What are you going to practice as a result of going through this lesson?

Scripture for further study on dealing with conflict:

1 Corinthians 6:1-6

Romans 12:16-21

Romans 16:17

2 Thessalonians 3:6,14

Pray with one another.



Lesson 13: Importance of Character

Knowing the character of God through your faith in him and living the Christian life is so much more than what you do. The real issue is knowing who you are in Christ. God is good and godly character is beneficial not only for eternal purposes, but even for life here on earth. As Christians, we know that we are saved by grace through faith. But that doesn't mean that it's not important to live a godly life in Christ. Our salvation is solely by grace through faith, but the bible also teaches us that God blesses our obedience. Our desire should be to honor and glorify God in everything we do and say. As Christians we personally benefit by living a godly life. But we also bless our families, churches, and even our nation by living righteously before the Lord. Jesus Christ is holiness and righteousness and if we are Christ followers, we should be the same.

Read together: Colossians 3:1-17, 1 John 3:7

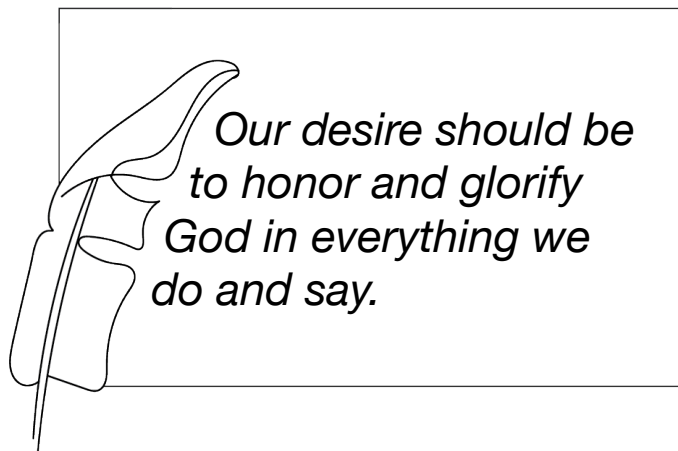
What is godly character?

Godly character can be defined as consistently doing the right thing at the right time, for the right reason. Or, choosing to do the right thing, even if no one is watching.

How do you build godly character?

We build godly character by:

1. Having endurance in doing what is right. Hebrews 12:2-4, 1 Peter 1:15-16
2. Embracing forgiveness of others and yourself. Colossians 3:13
3. Choosing to be humble and servant hearted. Philippians 2:5-8
4. Be a peacemaker. Matthew 5:9
5. Being kind, even to those who do not deserve it. Luke 6:35
6. By surrounding yourself with godly people. 1 Corinthians 15:33



Questions:

- What does it mean to have the same attitude as that of Christ?
- In your own life, where do you see God helping you to look more like Jesus?
- Where do you need to grow in your life to look more like Jesus?
- Is there someone God has put in your life to help you become more like Christ? Who is that person?

As Christians we have to look like Jesus by acting the way he acts and doing the things he would do. We should love people well and be filled with a joy that comes from his Holy Spirit. Our lives should be full of his peace, even in difficult circumstances.

Scripture for future study about Character:

1 Samuel 16:7

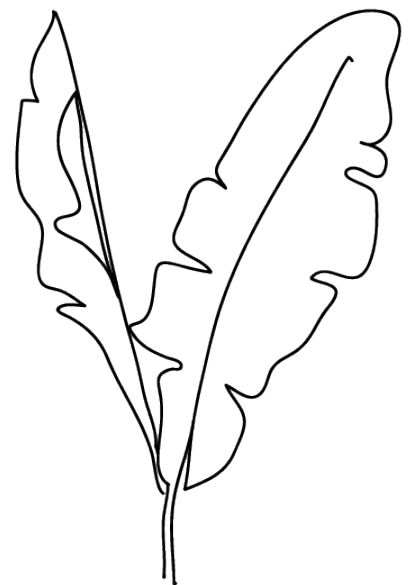
Proverbs 10:9

Luke 6:31

1 Timothy 4:12

2 Peter 1:5-7

Pray with one another.



Lesson 14: Spiritual Gifts and 5 Functions

Read together: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

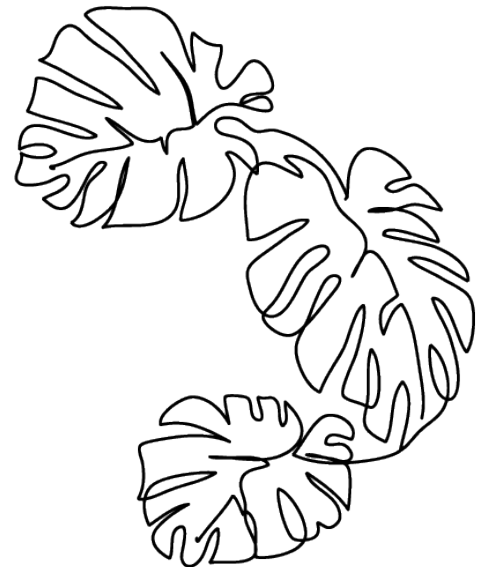
These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to individuals. Their purpose is to build up the entire church. The New Testament describes them primarily in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Basic facts about spiritual gifts:

1. The spiritual gifts are freely given to believers by God. (Ephesians 4:7)
2. Each believer receives different measures of these gifts. (Romans 12:6)
3. A spiritual gift is not earned or deserved. So a believer should not feel personal pride or self-satisfaction due to his gift. (Ephesians 4:2-3)
4. Spiritual gifts are a means of serving the Body of Christ. Gifts are not to exalt the person who has the gift; they are to enable that person to serve other believers. (1 Peter 4:10)
5. You will discover your gift, or gifts, as you serve God and the church. Many do not recognize their gift because they are inactive. Just as a baby is born with all the necessary parts, he must learn to use those parts through activity. Many Christians are sitting around waiting to discover their spiritual gifting. In their waiting they become frustrated because they are not functioning as God intends.

List of Spiritual Gifts:

Administration (Luke 14:28-30, Acts 6:1-7)
Apostleship (Acts 15:22-35, Galatians 2:7-10)
Discernment (Matthew 16:21-23, Acts 5:1-11)
Evangelism (Acts 8:26-40, Ephesians 4:11-14)
Exhortation (Acts 14:22, Romans 12:8)
Leadership (Romans 12:8, 1 Timothy 3:1-13)
Faith (Acts 11:22-24, 1 Corinthians 12:9)
Giving (Mark 12:41-44, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7)
*Healing (Acts 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 12:9)
Helps (Mark 15:40-41, Romans 16:1-2)
Hospitality (Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:1-2)
Intercession (Hebrews 7:25, Colossians 4:12-13)
Word of Knowledge (Acts 5:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:8)
Mercy (Matthew 9:35-36, Mark 9:41)
Pastor/Shepherd (John 10:1-18, 1 Peter 5:1-3)
Prophecy (Acts 2:37-40, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
Service (Acts 6:1-7, Galatians 6:10)
Teacher (Acts 20:20-21, Ephesians 4:11-14)
*Tongues and Interpretation (Acts 2:1-13, 1 Corinthians 12:10)
Word of Wisdom (Acts 6:3, 1 Corinthians 12:8)



*Some believe that these gifts are no longer active.

You can take a spiritual gifts test here: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

The Five Functions

Believers will also embody one of the five functions (underlined above) as their primary role in the church. It is a special gifting that they are passionate about and will fulfill alongside their spiritual gifts. These are outlined below:

Evangelist: Announcer, bringer, declarer of the good news.

These people are bold, drawn to the lost and the lost are drawn to them, they care deeply for people, they share the gospel in such a way that people respond.

Weaknesses: Sometimes they are not good at discipleship. They need to work alongside a pastor who can cover for their weakness in this area.

Pastor: Shepherd who guides or cares for the sheep.

These people are compassionate, they care well for people, they can recognize divisions and bring about reconciliation, they emphasize servanthood.

Weaknesses: They can become people pleasers and often need prophets and apostles to help overcome that weakness.

Teacher: Instructor or guide.

These people teach the truth in a way that people understand by word or action. They ground or establish people in the word, raising godly people.

Weaknesses: These people can be sidetracked by needing to be right. Working alongside an apostle or evangelist can be powerful in establishing new churches and discipling believers.

Prophet: Inspired speaker.

These people challenge traditional religious views, reveal sin in the lives of people and in the church, compel men to please God, and are in tune with the Father's will.

Weaknesses: These people can often have his or her own followers who have difficulty seeing past the prophet. They can be prideful, ambitious, and harsh when outside of the Spirit. They need a pastor to help them in delivering their message in love.

Apostle: Delegate, ambassador of the gospel, "sent" one.

These people are driven and have a strong sense of purpose, they have a vision for the future, are skilled at establishing new ministry or churches and are then sent out again.

Weaknesses: They can become so focused on their mission that they can sacrifice relationships. Needs teachers and pastors to be effective in ministry.

God gives spiritual gifts to everyone. The challenge is discovering our gift and how to use it in the church. A person could have more than one, but one particular spiritual gift will be the strongest. God's Spirit flows through the congregation and when we all use our gifts to build each other up, the church stands strong. If the Spirit and grace of God depart from the church, the church find herself struggling.

Questions:

- What do you think about serving a God that equips you to do his work by giving spiritual gifts?
- What happens to people who try to force themselves to serve in areas where they are not gifted?
- What do you think your spiritual gifts are?
- Are you using them currently in the church? If not, why not?

The spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to individuals. Their purpose is to build up the entire church.



Lesson 15: Inerrancy of Scripture

Read together: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Bible is made up of 66 books that are divided into two main sections. The Old Testament consisting of 39 books and the New Testament consisting of 27 books. These books are considered as God's Word because of their divine inspiration, their reception by the early church, their apostolic/prophetic connection (either by authorship or association), and their contribution to the coherent story of God and man as revealed in the other accepted books.

What is Inerrancy?

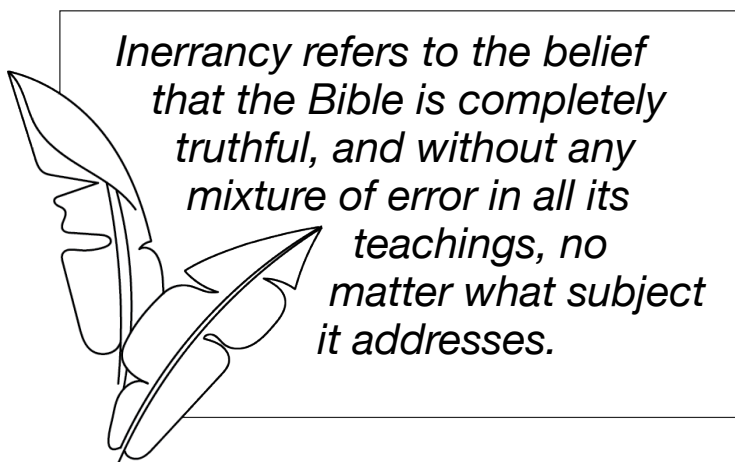
Inerrancy refers to the belief that the Bible is completely truthful, and without any mixture of error in all its teachings, no matter what subject it addresses. Therefore Scripture is a reliable guide to salvation and is truthful in all that it affirms and denies.

We are able to believe that Scripture is inerrant because of the testimony of Scripture about itself; the testimony of those who wrote Scripture; how the early church viewed the Old Testament and received the Epistles that now form the New Testament; and the testimony of Jesus concerning the Old Testament.

What we believe about the Bible

We believe the Bible to be God's Word, and understand that it carries His character. God is faithful and trustworthy. He does not tell lies nor is any deceit found in Him. The same is true of His Word recorded in the original manuscripts of Scripture. This is important to note because modern translations use different words and phrases to mean the same thing whilst still maintaining the original message. The men that we attribute authorship of the books of the Bible were divinely inspired by God and enabled by the Holy Spirit to write down revelation without making mistakes.

This means we cannot pick portions of scripture we like and only pay heed to those. There are scriptures that we may be uncomfortable with and/or society doesn't like, but we cannot ignore them because each verse in the 66 Books of the Bible is God's Word and we must accept it as truth.



Questions:

- What is the message of the Bible?
- What is the origin of the Bible?
- What are the uses of the Bible?
- What is the result of studying and walking in obedience to the Bible?
- How then should we view, approach, use and respond to the Bible?

Scriptures for future study on the inerrancy of scripture:

Psalm 119:160

2 Samuel 23:1-2

1 Thessalonians 2:13

2 Peter 1:19-21

1 John 1:1-4

Luke 24:44

Matthew 5:18

Revelation 22:18-19

Pray with one another.

References:

- The 99 Essential Doctrines by The Gospel Project
- Basic Doctrine 1 by Bill Scheidler
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/authority-inerrancy-scripture/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-biblical-canon/>



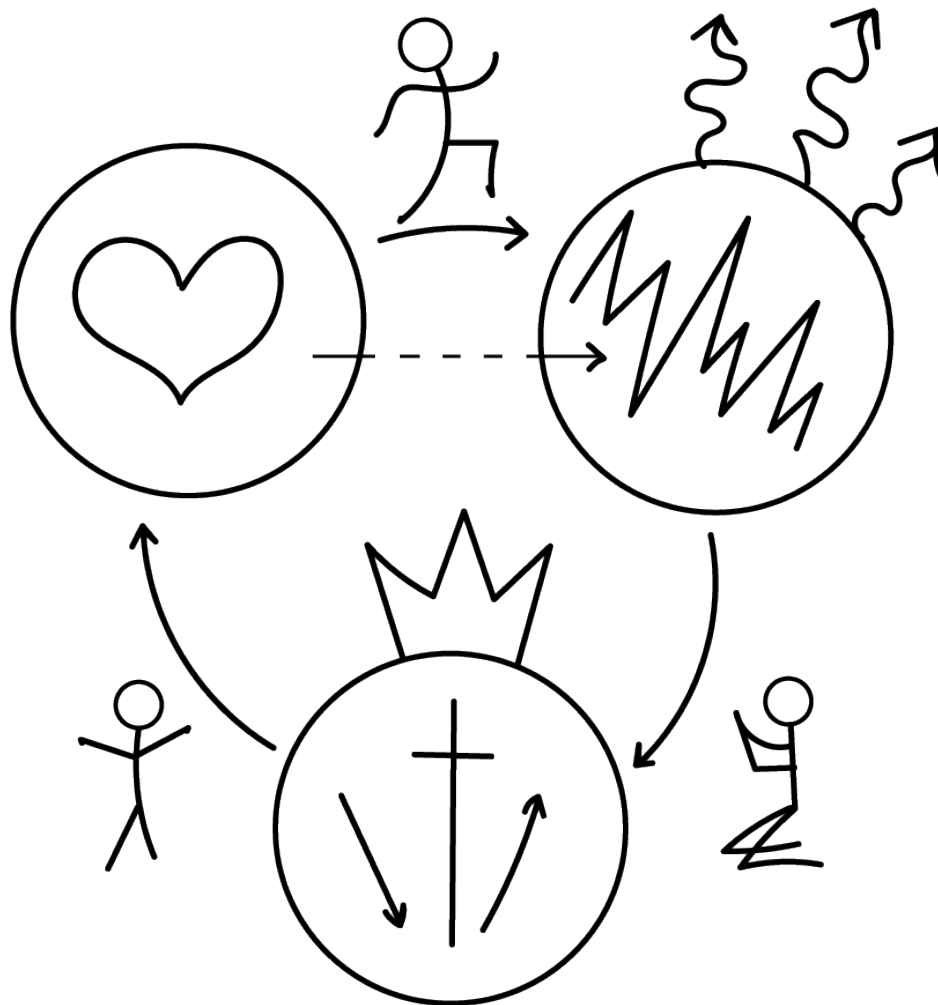
Gospel Presentations

Romans Road:

When you are sharing the gospel using the Romans Road read the following verses in order:

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 10:9-10
- Romans 5:1

3 Circles Gospel Presentation:



Christian Birthright

I am the light of the world, and the darkness cannot suppress it. **Matthew 5:14**

I am living in Christ's authority which gives me power over all of the power of the enemy. **Luke 10:17-20**

I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life and energy. **John 15:1.5**

I am not condemned, but declared fully forgiven and righteous in Christ. **Romans 8:1**

I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing his inheritance with him. **Romans 8:17**

I am secure in Christ's love for me. **Romans 8:35-39**

I am an overwhelming conqueror in Christ against all that would come against me. **Romans 8:37-39**

I am a temple—a dwelling place of God. His Spirit and his life dwell in me. **1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19**

I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with him. **1 Corinthians 6:17**

I am a member of Christ's Body. **1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30**

I am a new creation in Christ, old things are passing away. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation for God to others. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

I am righteous with God's righteousness. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

I am a child of God and one in Christ. **Galatians 3:26, 28**

I am a child of God, my personal heavenly Father, who intimately and infinitely loves me. **Galatians 4:6**

I am an heir of God since I am a child of God. **Galatians 4:6-7**

I am a saint. **Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2**

I am seated in the heavenly realm, with Christ, in all his authority over Satan's kingdom. **Ephesians 1:19-23; 2:5-6**

I am God's workmanship, his handiwork, born anew in Christ to do his work. **Ephesians 2:10**

I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family. **Ephesians 2:19**

I am a warrior against Satan and fully outfitted to stand triumphant in Christ. **Ephesians 6:10-20**

I am hidden with Christ in God, so Satan must go through Christ to get to me.
Colossians 3:3

I am an expression of the life of Christ because he is my life. **Colossians 3:4**

I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved, and therefore jealously protected.
Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4

I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. **Hebrews 3:1**

I am a partaker of Christ; I share in his life. **Hebrews 3:14**

I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house.
1 Peter 2:5

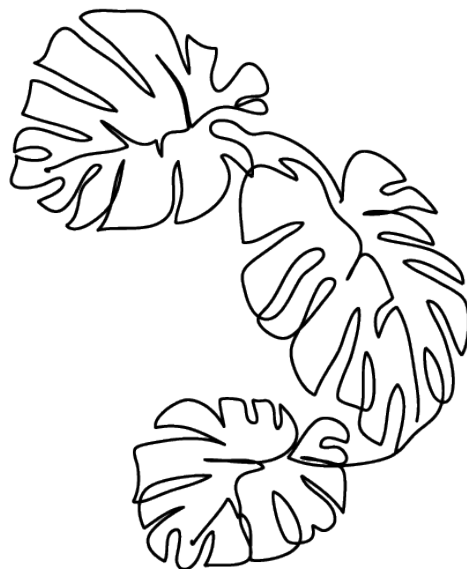
I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own choosing. **1 Peter 2:9-10**

I am an alien and a stranger in this world in which I temporarily live. **1 Peter 2:11**

I am an enemy of the devil. **1 Peter 5:8**

I am a child of God and I will resemble Christ when he returns. **1 John 3:1-2**

I am born of God, and the evil one—the devil—must go through God to touch me.
1 John 5:18



99 Memory Verse Challenge

Gospel

John 3:16
Romans 10:9-10
John 1:12
Ephesians 2:8-9
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
1 John 5:11-13
John 5:24
Romans 1:20
John 3:3
John 14:6

Giving

2 Corinthians 9:7
Acts 20:35
Luke 6:38

Obedience

John 14:15
John 14:21
James 1:22

Worry / Anxiety

Matthew 6:33
Philippians 4:6-7

Love

John 13:34-35
Romans 5:8
1 John 4:10
2 Corinthians 5:14-15
1 Timothy 1:5
Matthew 22:37-39

Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Colossians 4:2
Hebrews 4:16



Faith

Hebrews 11:1
Hebrews 11:6

Forgiveness

Psalms 103:11-12
Romans 8:1
Galatians 5:1
1 John 1:9

God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17
2 Timothy 2:15
Joshua 1:8
Hebrews 4:12

God's Provision

1 Corinthians 10:13
1 Corinthians 9:8
2 Peter 3:9
2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Matthew 7:11
1 Corinthians 2:9

Servanthood

Matthew 20:26-28
1 Corinthians 9:19

Marriage / Sexual Purity

Genesis 2:18
2 Timothy 2:22

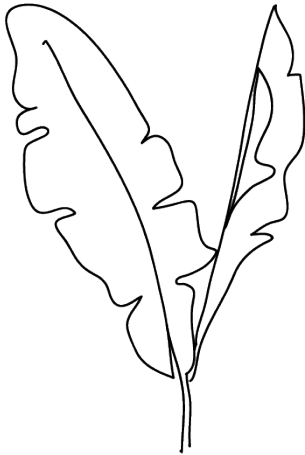
Reaching the Lost

Mark 16:15
Acts 1:8

99 Memory Verse Challenge

Work Ethic

Colossians 3:23
Proverbs 14:23
1 Peter 4:10



Attitude

Philippians 2:3-4
Romans 12:1-2
Hebrews 12:1-2
Colossians 3:2
Philippians 4:8
Philippians 1:21
Colossians 3:12-14

Purpose

1 Corinthians 10:31
Matthew 28:19-20
Revelation 4:11
2 Corinthians 10:31
Romans 1:16

Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19
Ephesians 1:13
Galatians 5:22-23

Fellowship

Hebrews 10:24-25
Acts 2:42

Promises

2 Peter 1:34
Philippians 4:13
Jeremiah 33:3

Following Christ

Luke 9:23
Philippians 1:27
Colossians 2:6-7
1 Corinthians 9:24
Philippians 3:10
John 15:7-8
1 Timothy 4:8
2 Timothy 4:2

Perseverance

Philippians 1:6
1 Corinthians 15:5-8
Romans 5:3-5
James 1:2-3

Humility / Pride

Isaiah 66:1-2
John 5:44
Matthew 5:3

Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:12
1 Peter 5:8-9

In General / Extras

Psalm 1
Psalm 23
1 Corinthians 13
Philippians 2:1-11
Ephesians 2:1-10



Daily Gospel Reading Plan

- Day 1 - Matthew 1; Matthew 2
- Day 2 - Matthew 3; Matthew 4
- Day 3 - Matthew 5; Matthew 6
- Day 4 - Matthew 7; Matthew 8
- Day 5 - Matthew 9; Matthew 10
- Day 6 - Matthew 11; Matthew 12
- Day 7 - Matthew 13; Matthew 14
- Day 8 - Matthew 15; Matthew 16
- Day 9 - Matthew 17; Matthew 18
- Day 10 - Matthew 19; Matthew 20
- Day 11 - Matthew 21; Matthew 22
- Day 12 - Matthew 23; Matthew 24
- Day 13 - Matthew 25; Matthew 26
- Day 14 - Matthew 27; Matthew 28
- Day 15 - Mark 1; Mark 2
- Day 16 - Mark 3; Mark 4
- Day 17 - Mark 5; Mark 6
- Day 18 - Mark 7; Mark 8
- Day 19 - Mark 9; Mark 10
- Day 20 - Mark 11; Mark 12
- Day 21 - Mark 13; Mark 14
- Day 22 - Mark 15; Mark 16
- Day 23 - Luke 1; Luke 2
- Day 24 - Luke 3; Luke 4
- Day 25 - Luke 5; Luke 6
- Day 26 - Luke 7; Luke 8
- Day 27 - Luke 9; Luke 10
- Day 28 - Luke 11; Luke 12
- Day 29 - Luke 13; Luke 14
- Day 30 - Luke 15; Luke 16
- Day 31 - Luke 17; Luke 18
- Day 32 - Luke 19; Luke 20
- Day 33 - Luke 21; Luke 22
- Day 34 - Luke 23; Luke 24
- Day 35 - John 1; John 2
- Day 36 - John 3; John 4
- Day 37 - John 5; John 6
- Day 38 - John 7; John 8
- Day 39 - John 9; John 10
- Day 40 - John 11; John 12
- Day 41 - John 13; John 14
- Day 42 - John 15; John 16
- Day 43 - John 17; John 18
- Day 44 - John 19; John 20

OLD TESTAMENT

The Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Poetic / Wisdom Books

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Historical Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 and 2 Samuel
1 and 2 Kings
1 and 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

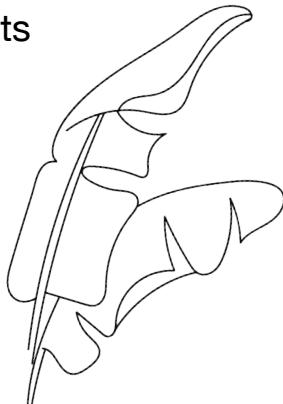
Minor Prophets

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Historical

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts



Pauline Epistles

Romans
1 and 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 and 2 Thessalonians
1 and 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Non-Pauline Epistles

Hebrews
James
1 and 2 Peter
1, 2 and 3 John
Jude

Apocalyptic
Revelation

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